

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A device for applying torque to a wire, comprising:  
a body portion having ~~a U-shaped~~ an open ended channel with a bottom surface and an opening that extends along an entire length of the body portion for allowing the wire to be side-loaded into the channel;

a tongue supported in the ~~U-shaped~~ channel including a first engagement surface positioned above ~~[[a]] the~~ bottom surface of the ~~U-shaped~~ channel;

a ~~U-shaped~~ slider that is longitudinally slideable within the channel of the body portion, the ~~U-shaped~~ slider having ~~a closed~~ an end that forms a second engagement surface that receives ~~[[a]] the wire~~ ~~[[that]]~~ when the wire is inserted side-loaded in the channel; and

wherein movement of the slider within the channel of the body portion compresses the wire ~~against~~ between the first engagement surface of the tongue and the second engagement surface of the slider so that rotation of the body portion applies torque to the wire.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The device of Claim 1, wherein the ~~closed~~ end of the ~~U-shaped~~ slider and the tongue include angled cooperating surfaces.

5. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the body portion has a grip enhancing mechanism.

6. (Original) The device of Claim 5, wherein the grip enhancing mechanism comprises one or more ridges on the exterior of the body portion.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A wire torquing device, comprising:

a body having an open U-shaped channel extending along an entire length thereof in which a wire can be fitted; ~~[[and]]~~

a U-shaped slider that remains in the U-shaped channel as a wire is fitted along the length of the channel and is movable longitudinally within the U-shaped channel, the slider including an open ended channel and a closed end that forms an engagement surface; and

wherein the open ended channel of the U-shaped slider receives a portion of the wire when fitted in the U-shaped channel of the body, and wherein the engagement surface ~~[[that]]~~ of the slider secures the wire as the slider is moved longitudinally in the channel.

11-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A wire torquing device of Claim 10, comprising:

a body having an open U-shaped channel extending along an entire length thereof in which a wire can be fitted;

a slider that is movable longitudinally within the channel; and

wherein the open U-shaped channel includes a pair of ~~sidewalls~~ side walls, a bottom surface and a fixed wedge positioned on one of the side walls of the U-shaped channel; and wherein the slider includes an engagement surface facing the wedge ~~that is; the slider being~~ longitudinally movable towards ~~and away from~~ the wedge to pinch the wire against the wedge.

21. (New) The device of Claim 1, wherein the tongue is defined by the body portion.

22. (New) The device of Claim 1, wherein the slider is U-shaped and includes an open ended channel, and wherein the first engagement surface of the U-shaped slider forms a

portion of the open ended channel of the slider, the open ended channel of the U-shaped slider receiving the wire when the wire is side loaded in the channel of the body portion.

23. (New) The device of Claim 1, wherein the open ended channel of the body is U-shaped.

24. (New) The wire torquing device of Claim 10, further comprising a tongue disposed in the U-shaped channel, wherein the tongue cooperates with the engagement surface on the slider to secure the wire in a fixed position.